
GEOGRAPHY OF CITIES AND URBANIZATION PROCESSES: THE CASE OF TASHKENT CITY

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ABSTRACT:

This article explores the urbanization processes in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan. It examines its geographical location, demographic growth, spatial development dynamics, and modern urban planning trends. Special attention is paid to the socio-economic and environmental consequences of urbanization and to strategies for sustainable development of Tashkent.

Tashkent, as the capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, holds strategic importance not only as a political and administrative center but also as an economic, scientific, cultural, and transport hub. Its geographic location has contributed to its development as a major urban center in Central Asia. Historically located at the crossroads of caravan routes, Tashkent has now become the most densely populated and rapidly growing urban center in the country.

Urbanization in Tashkent began to accelerate in the early 20th century. During the Soviet era, this process was artificially intensified with the construction of industrial enterprises, the development of large-scale transport infrastructure, the building of multi-story apartment blocks, population migration, and other contributing factors. Following independence, urbanization entered a new phase, marked by modern architecture, private construction, new residential areas, and business centers.

Currently, the population of Tashkent exceeds 3 million and continues to grow steadily. This demographic pressure impacts urban infrastructure, public utilities, and environmental conditions. Problems such as traffic congestion, reduction of green areas, air pollution, and inefficient land use are among the negative consequences of urbanization.

One important aspect of urban geography is the division of Tashkent into functional zones. The central areas are densely filled with administrative, commercial, and social infrastructure, while peripheral districts are mainly residential and industrial zones. In recent years, large-scale construction projects have been undertaken in districts such as Yashnobod, Sergeli, and Olmazor, leading to the formation of new urban landscapes on the city's outskirts.

Modern urban planning trends are also visible in Tashkent, including the implementation of "smart city" technologies, digital governance, eco-infrastructure, and sustainable transport systems. Notable developments include the expansion of metro lines, the construction of modern bicycle paths, and the increase in green spaces.

However, the success of the urbanization process depends on several key factors:

- sustainable development of urban infrastructure,
- effective management of migration flows,
- solving the issue of affordable housing,
- maintaining ecological balance,
- preserving historical monuments.

Urbanization in Tashkent is not only about spatial expansion but also about the complex integration of social, cultural, economic, and environmental processes. Sustainable urban development determines not only the quality of life for Tashkent residents but also the overall socio-economic potential of the country.

Urbanization in Tashkent is complex, multi-layered, and dynamic. The city's geography, population growth, infrastructure changes, environmental issues, and modern urban approaches are all interconnected. The rapid development in construction, transportation, and population density is transforming the city into a modern metropolis. However, this process requires thoughtful planning and effective city management.

To ensure the sustainable urban development of Tashkent, the following directions should be prioritized:

- continuous renewal and expansion of city infrastructure,
- protection of ecological balance and green zones,
- equitable development of social infrastructure in all districts,

- preservation of historical and cultural heritage sites during urbanization,
- widespread implementation of digital technologies and smart city principles.

Urbanization is not just construction — it is the harmonious development of human potential, quality of life, and urban culture. The analysis of Tashkent's urbanization process shows that with proper management, science-based planning, and environmental approaches, sustainable development of the city is achievable.

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